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town, seven years ago there were 24 feet on the bar, but now there were only 11 feet. As to Gorgon Bay, there was no impediment whatever to its navigation by day or night. He was astonished at the remarks which had fallen from Sir Edward Belcher. Some of the obstacles and dangers enumerated by him existed, in a great measure, only in that officer's imagination; and he, Commander Pim, was happy to inform the Society that he had himself overcome them without difficulty. He hoped to see vessels of the *Great Eastern* class, on either side of his proposed route, connecting England with Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and British Columbia. Such a project, he thought, would be befitting a nation like Great Britain; which ought clearly to possess a sure and rapid means of access to her distant colonies and possessions, independent of any political disturbance.

The meeting was then adjourned to March 10th.

Eighth Meeting, Monday, March 10th, 1862.

LORD ASHBURTON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Lieut. James Murray Grant; H. B. H. Birchill; Frederick Elliot Blackstone; John F. Laurie; William Leslie, M.P.; John Thomas Quin; James Rae; Joseph Rigby; Russell Morland Skinner; Henry Arthur Dillon Surridge; and William Wells, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—Among the Accessions to the Library and Map-rooms since the former Meeting were—Rosser's 'Notes on the South Atlantic;' Map of Peru, showing the deposit of Nitrate of Soda; Sheets 6, 12, and 14 of Philip's Imperial Atlas, &c., &c.

EXHIBITIONS.—Maps, Plans, and Views, illustrating the Paper by M. Mouhot, were exhibited at the Meeting.

The PRESIDENT announced that a letter had been received from Mr. Consul Petherick, alluding to a serious affray in which he and his large party had been engaged, and referring for further particulars to a communication previously sent to Sir R. Murchison, which has not yet reached its destination. Mr. Petherick enclosed a copy of the following letter, which he had sent to Captain Speke:—

“Khartoum, 15th Nov., 1861.

“MY DEAR SPEKE,—I pray God this may be delivered safely to you by my agent, Abd el Majid, who with a strong party, consisting of some seventy men, well armed and equipped, will proceed in search of you the moment he arrives at Gondokoro.

“We—that is to say, my wife and self, accompanied by a medical man and photographer—after a tedious journey up the Nile and a vexatious delay of six weeks at Korosko, owing to a deficiency of camels necessary for crossing the desert of Abou Hamad, arrived here a month ago.

“Had it not been for a serious illness from which I am now recovering, we should have left at the same time as Abd el Majid to attempt a meeting.

“The latter also has been detained by the unheard of rise of the Nile this season, and the consequent backwardness of the north winds and cool season.

“Abd el Majid's instructions are to proceed to meet you from Gondokoro via

my establishment at Niambara, on the west bank of the Nile, some four to five days' journey in the interior, where he will reinforce himself with some thirty men, in addition to the forty he proceeds with from here; and, unless he meets you in the neighbourhood of Gondokoro, he is to continue due south in the direction of the Lake Nyanza, which, as he proceeds, he is to inquire for, until my wife and self come up with him.

"Should Abd el Majid effect a happy meeting with you, prior to my arrival, he is to place himself and men at your disposal, return and conduct you to the boats, and make them over to you for your disposal.

"The bearer has in charge some provisions, quinine—which latter I trust you will not require—and clothing for your immediate requirements; and hoping that all may go well, with my best wishes to Grant and yourself,

"Believe me, my dear Speke,

"Yours ever sincerely,

"JOHN PETHERICK.

"P.S. Papers and magazines for your amusement are sent with the bearer; but the letters and Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, according to you their gold medal, I prefer for greater safety conveying to you myself.

"God bless you both.

"J. P."

The PRESIDENT said the first paper that would be read would give an account, by a French gentleman, of Cambodia. Cambodia was not like Borneo or any other wild district, of whose past history we knew little, and which had comparatively little interest for us in the future: it was at the present moment the scene of a struggle between the French and the natives, and there was a prospect of a French empire being ultimately established in that country. Cambodia has been the scene of a remarkable civilisation. We have the relation of a Chinese envoy to Cambodia, at the end of the thirteenth century, who gives an account of the wonders of the capital, of which the ruins still exist;—great ruins of a city with five double gates, displaying not only masses of masonry with large carvings, but many monuments of interest. When the Portuguese arrived in that country, Cambodia was still a seat of empire. Unfortunately, towards the end of the last century, a disputed succession took place. Siam on the one hand, and the Annamites, who are the opponents of the French on the other, divided the country between them; and the whole land has been made desolate, the population has decreased, and in every way it has fallen below its former state of prosperity. In 1860 the French made demonstrations against Cambodia. In 1861 they took its capital Saigon; and there was every prospect of their extending their conquests and establishing themselves permanently in the land.

The Papers read were—

1. *Travels in Cambodia.* By M. MOUHOT.

M. MOUHOT traversed Cambodia from east to west, and also ascended the Mékon River to the frontier of Laos. He returned to the coast by crossing the waterparting between it and the basin of the Menam River, and descending to Bangkok.

The Mékon is a vast melancholy-looking river, three miles broad, covered with islands, and flowing with the rapidity of a torrent: its shores are covered with aquatic birds, but its waters are almost deserted by canoes. A plain, covered with coarse herbage, separates